cards by these States which facilitated overloading of vehicles in violation of the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(c) and (d) The Governments of Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have informed the Union Government that the sepcial passes/tokens/cards have been withdrawn and a decision has not been taken to release funds from the CRF to these States. A decision to resume the release of funds to the remaining States will depend on the response of these State Governments on this issue.

Payments to Sugarcane Farmers

*252. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has urged the State Chief Ministers to speed up payments to farmers before the next sugar season begins in October;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to have second sugarcane package for the non-SAP States in addition to Rs. 609 crore assistance announced earlier in July 2003;

(c) whether Government have made it clear that Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Punjab still have the option of fixing the cane prices as they have not yet accepted the package doled out by the Centre; and

(d) to what extent it has been helpful to the cane growers in these States?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the benefit of the second sugarcane package is available in respect of the cane price arrears of the 2002-03 sugar season of the sugar mills in the cooperative and public sectors in the States where the practice of State Adivsed Prices (SAP) of sugarcane is prevalent and for all sugar mills in those States, where no such practice exists.

(c) The first sugarcane package for the five States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab is contingent *inter alia* upon the respective State Government undertaking not to declare SAP in future either formally or informally.

(d) The State Governments are yet to avail of these packages of assistance.

Four-Laning of NH-48 and NH-17

*253. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Karnataka has proposed four-laning of 320 Kms and 300 Kms long National Highway Nos. 48 and 17 from Nelamangala to Mangalore and Panaji-Mangalore to Kochi respectively; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four laning of National Highways Nos. 48 & 17, or parts thereof, can be considered only after ascertaining the traffic volume, financial viability, availability of land and completion of pre-construction activities.

Attack on Indian Consulate in Kabul

*254. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian National has, recently, been killed in attack on Indian consulate in Kabul;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate arrangements have been made for the security of the Indian Nationals and personnel of the Indian Embassy at Kabul; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?